

Strasbourg, 4 December 2020
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T-PVS/Inf(2020)12

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

40th meeting
Strasbourg, 30 November - 4 December 2020

**REVISED MANDATE OF THE BERN CONVENTION
INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON FINANCES**

*Memorandum of the Secretariat
established by the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

Background

At its 39th meeting held on 3-6 December 2019, the Standing Committee decided to establish an inter-sessional working group on finances to further develop, with the support of the Secretariat and the Bureau, proposals on Option 1 and Option 3 as contained in document [T-PVS\(2019\)1rev](#) for the future financing and development of the Bern Convention, namely:

- The inclusion of financial clauses by amending the articles of the Bern Convention;
- The establishment of a Partial Agreement.

In its [Resolution No. 9 \(2019\)](#), the Standing Committee complemented the decision above by stating that the inter-sessional working group on finances shall with the support of the Secretariat and the Bureau in pursuance of options 1 and 3, draft full proposals for amending the Convention and for a Partial Agreement concerning financing. Both proposals shall be made available to Parties four months before the date of the 40th Standing Committee, for discussion, possible adoption, and possible submission of either or both proposals for approval by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

At its 40th meeting held virtually from 30 November to 4 December 2020, the Standing Committee decided to postpone the decision on the possible amendment to the Bern Convention until the 41st Standing Committee and agreed to pursue the proposal of setting up an Enlarged Partial Agreement, as reflected in document [T-PVS/Inf\(2020\)03rev](#). The Committee further mandated the Secretariat to submit the proposal to establish an Enlarged Partial Agreement to the Committee of Ministers for its approval.

For the records

Two conditions have to be met in order to set up a Partial Agreement:

- The Committee of Ministers needs to authorise the creation of a Partial Agreement by a two-thirds majority.
- As a second step, a minimum threshold of 16 member States wishing to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement needs to adopt a Resolution setting up the Partial Agreement which contains the agreement's statute.

Mandate of the inter-sessional working group on finances

Considering the decisions of the Standing Committee at its 40th meeting, the inter-sessional working group on finances, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Bureau, shall:

Regarding the amendment of the Bern Convention:

- Revise the proposal of amendment in light of questions raised by Contracting Parties and present the final draft proposal to the 41st Standing Committee;
- Prepare a proposal for a possible scale of mandatory assessed contributions for the amendment of the Bern Convention to be presented at the 41st Standing Committee;

Regarding the setting up of the Enlarged Partial Agreement:

- Follow up on the possible comments, suggestions, concerns expressed by the Committee of Ministers and, if necessary in view of significant changes, make recommendations to the Bureau for revision of the proposal of the Enlarged Partial Agreement for consideration by the 41st meeting of the Standing Committee;
- Prepare a provisional scale of contributions for the Enlarged Partial Agreement.

The Intersessional Working Group on Finances will work via written consultations and online meetings. It shall determine its own meeting frequency.